

# Guidelines for Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Requirements

## Massachusetts - Residential Dwelling Units

Year built or substantially renovated	Before 1975	1975 - 8/27/97	8/27/97 - 2007	1/08 - 2/11	2/11 - Present
<b>All Smoke Alarms Must be Ceiling Mounted</b>					
Smoke Alarm Power Supply:	Battery**** or Hardwired	Hardwired, Interconnected	Hardwired, Interconnected w/ battery backup	Hardwired, Interconnected w/ battery backup	Hardwired, Interconnected w/ battery backup
<b>Type of Smoke Alarm Technology : (Photoelectric or Ionization)</b>					
On the same level, if a required detector is <b>More than 20 ft.</b> from a kitchen or bathroom doorway it shall be:	<b>Both</b> a photoelectric <b>and</b> an Ionization alarm*	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric OR Ionization	Photoelectric <b>OR</b> Both Photoelectric <b>AND</b> Ionization*	Photoelectric Only
On the same level, if a required detector is <b>Within 20 ft.</b> of a kitchen or bathroom doorway it shall be:					
	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only	Photoelectric Only
<b>Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Power Supply and Placement</b>					
Battery or Plug-in w/ battery backup	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Hardwired, interconnect w/ battery backup	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed	Required	Required
<b>CO Alarm Placement:</b> A CO shall be located on each habitable level including basements and attics with permanent stairs***, within <b>10 ft.</b> of <b>every</b> bedroom door, and every room adjacent to an attached garage.					
<b>Smoke/Heat Alarm Placement</b>					
Base of <b>every</b> stair (but not within the stairway) leading to an occupied floor above	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Outside every sleeping area	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Inside every bedroom**	N/A	N/A	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Attic with permanent stair case***	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke	Smoke
Attached Garage	N/A	N/A	N/A	Heat	Heat

\* A Dual Detector with **both** Photoelectric **and** Ionization technology is allowed

\*\* It is not an office if it has a closet. It is considered a bedroom.

\*\*\* No Smoke Alarm is **required** if the attic temperature can go below 40F or over 100F

\*\*\*\* Battery powered devices replaced after December 1, 2016 must be of the 10 year sealed battery type

One Smoke alarm is needed for every 1200 sq. ft. of area per floor

A Combination Smoke and CO alarm is permitted but **must** have **both** a tone and voice feature

Low Voltage fire warning systems are exempt from the dual detector technology requirement

Wireless alarms (such as NEST) may be used **but** if the property is required to be hardwired you **must** have primary power (110v) to each alarm. You may interconnect wirelessly. Houses built before 1975 can be all battery power.

No more than 18 alarms (maximum of 12 being Smoke alarms) can be interconnected without having a Fire Alarm system installed

This document is a guideline. Please call Fire Prevention if you still have questions. 781-316-3803